STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1997 No. 494

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND AND WALES

CORONERS

The Bedfordshire (Coroners) Order 1997

Made - - - - 21st February 1997

Laid before Parliament 5th March 1997

Coming into force - - 1st April 1997

The Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 17 and 26 of the Local Government Act 1992(1) hereby makes the following Order:

- 1. This Order may be cited as the Bedfordshire (Coroners) Order 1997 and shall come into force on 1st April 1997.
- **2.**—(1) There shall be a single coroner's district, called the Bedfordshire and Luton Coroner's District, for the Counties of Bedfordshire and Luton (which county comes into existence on 1st April 1997 by virtue of article 8(2) of the Bedfordshire (Borough of Luton) (Structural Change) Order 1995(2)).
- (2) The Council of the County of Bedfordshire shall be the relevant council within the meaning of section 1(1A) of the Coroners Act 1988(3) for the coroner's district constituted by paragraph (1) above.
- (3) The person who, at 31st March 1997, is the coroner for the County of Bedfordshire shall be deemed on 1st April 1997 to be appointed coroner for the coroner's district constituted by paragraph (1) above.
- (4) Any person who, at 31st March 1997, is a deputy or assistant deputy coroner for the County of Bedfordshire shall be deemed on 1st April 1997 to be appointed deputy or, as the case may be, assistant deputy coroner for the coroner's district constituted by paragraph (1) above.
- **3.**—(1) On 1st April 1997, any process issued, order made, direction given, inquest begun or other thing done by or to the coroner for the County of Bedfordshire shall be deemed to have been issued, made, given, begun or done by or to the coroner for the coroner's district constituted by article 2(1) above.

^{(1) 1992} c. 19.

⁽²⁾ S.I.1995/1776.

^{(3) 1988} c. 13; section 1(1A) was inserted by S.I. 1996/655.

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- (2) All documents, exhibits, registers and other things in the custody of the coroner for the County of Bedfordshire in connection with inquests or post-mortem investigations shall be transferred to the coroner for the coroner's district constituted by article 2(1) above.
 - (3) In this article "coroner" includes any deputy coroner or assistant deputy coroner.

Home Office 21st February 1997 Tom Sackville Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order makes provision about coroners in consequence of the creation of the County of Luton by article 8(2) of the Bedfordshire (Borough of Luton) (Structural Change) Order 1995 on 1st April 1997.

Article 2(1) of this Order combines that new county with the County of Bedfordshire to form a single coroner's district. Article 2(2) makes the Bedfordshire County Council the relevant council within the meaning of section 1 of the Coroners Act 1988. The relevant council is responsible for the appointment of coroners and has other functions in connection with coroners under that Act. Article 2(3) provides for the person who, on 31st March 1997, holds the office of coroner for the County of Bedfordshire to continue as coroner for the new coroner's district.

Article 3 makes transitional arrangements to ensure continuity as respects the coroner for the new coroner's district.